GARRISON HITS WARREN REPORT

Calls Single Assassin Theory 'Fairy Tale'

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New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison said Saturday night that the single assassin theory arrived at by the Warren Commission is impossible to uphold.

He spoke on a half hour National Broadcasting Co. program in reply to a June 19 program aired by NBC which criticized his investigation.

"Whenever they (the experts) have encountered a difficult implausibility such as the fact that Oswald was known to be a poor marksman with a rifle, whereas eight different wounds were caused in less than six seconds, they merely produce an expert to explain to you that this particular sequence of facts is really quite possible mathematically."

He charged that the official truth is now no longer what actually happened but what has been officially approved.

"The conclusion of the Warren Report, that President Kennedy was killed by a lone assassin, is a fairy tale," Garrison said.

MEMBERS HONEST

He said that this does not mean that the members of the Warren Commission were aware at the time that their conclusion was totally untrue nor does it necessarily mean that they had sinister motives.

"It does mean," he said, "that the conclusion that no conspiracy existed and that Lee Oswald as the lone assassin is a fiction and a myth that should be brought to an end."

Turning to why and how President Kennedy was murdered, Garrison claimed: "President Kennedy was assassinated by men who sought to obtain a radical change in our foreign policy, particularly with regard to Cuba."

In 1963, Garrison said, a great variety of interests not only desired an American-supported invasion of Castro's Cuba, but took it for granted that it was inevitable.

"In the fall of 1962 the Cuban missile crisis occurred and it was followed by a pronounced new attitude toward Cuba on the part of the United States," Garrison said. "Cuba was no longer regarded as an enemy and was no longer regarded as fair game, for those men who had, for one reason or another, focused their attention on this island."

In June of 1963, Garrison stated that President Kennedy in a speech said the United States should try to live in peace with the Russians.

'HOSTILE ATTENTIONS'

"At this point," Garrison charged, "some individuals transferred their hostile atten-

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tions from Fidel Castro to John Kennedy."

"They planned the President's assassination and they planned it well," Garrison said.

Garrison said the evidence indicated that President Kennedy was shot at from two different directions and also from the right front.

"We know that shooting was coming from two separate directions in the rear because the President and Gov. Connally were hit in the back within a split second of each other — and this necessarily had to happen with two bullets coming from two different rifles," Garrison said.

"We know that the President was being shot at from the grassy knoll area on the right front because most of the people in Dealey Plaza heard the shots coming from there — and because at least one of the President's wounds was an entry wound from the front and because men were seen running from the grassy knoll area immediately afterwards," he said.

Garrison maintained that this is why the idea of Lee Oswald as the lone assassin of President Kennedy is a fairy tale and should be brought to an end.

In his talk, Garrison was critical of NBC for what he termed inaccuracies it presented in the June 19 show.

The network, which donated the time to Garrison to answer its claims that his probe was improper, issued a statement following the showing of the taped Garrison talk.

REBUTTAL DENIED

"Dist Atty. Jim Garrison said nothing in his program tonight that alters the information developed by NBC news about the methods he used in pressing his theory of the Kennedy assassination," the network said.

"I have been district attorney of New Orleans for more than five years," Garrison said, "and we have never had a single case reversed because of improper methods on the part of my staff. Nor do we rush to judgment on half-baked evidence."

He said that the proof of that is the fact that in more than five years, not one defendant has been acquitted on a murder case.

"Nor have we ever lost a major case in five years," Garrison said.

BERTRAND ISSUE

The network said Garrison made only two specific mentions of the NBC program and added: "NBC News had reported that it had located the true Clay Bertrand and that his name had been given to the United

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States Department of Justice."

Garrison claimed the man denied he is Bertrand.

"NBC News stands by the statement made on its program," the network said.

Clay Shaw, a New Orleans businessman, has been charged by Garrison with conspiring in 1963 to slay the President.

Garrison said convicted burglar John Cancler, who had appeared on the NBC program, had been called before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury and was asked the truth about his statements on the program. Cancler refused to answer, invoking the Fifth Amendment, the DA said.

The network said that "the fact that he availed himself of his constitutional rights does not affect the truth of his statements."

In both cases, Garrison said, NBC fell silent when he pointed up his criticism of people and things said on the June 19 program.

Garrison said that in his considered judgment "There has been an effort to prejudice in advance the potential jurors in the trial of this Shaw case."

"As a matter of fact," he said, "the National Broadcasting Co. has already had the trial. The defendant was found innocent and the district attorney was convicted."

Garrison also criticized Newsweek magazine on the grounds that it had carried an article saying his office had attempted to bribe a man in the case.

"It later turned out that his story and their article were totally untrue," he said.

Garrison said that the police investigators in his office were found innocent of any wrongdoing in an investigation conducted by the police department.

"However, Newsweek has made virtually no mention of that." he said.

CRITICIZES COMMISSION

Turning to the Warren Commission, Garrison said that its inquiry into the assassination started off with a completely unacceptable philosophy for a democracy.

"One of the stated objectives was to calm the fears of the people about a conspiracy," he said. "But in a democracy like ours, the government has no right to calm our fears about a conspiracy any more than it has, for example, the right to excite our fears unduly about Red China or fluoridation or birth control."